

REMARKS

Request for Entry of Claim Amendments

In the amendments presented herein, claim 22 is narrowed by incorporating the limitations of dependent claims 24, 26, 27, and 33 into claim 22. Claims 24, 26, 27, and 33 are canceled.

Claims 23, 25, 28, and 32 are also canceled to reduce issues on appeal, including issues relating to the rejection of claims 25 and 28 under 35 USC 112.

The amendments do not introduce any new limitations that were not previously present in the claims, and thus no new searching is necessitated. As discussed below, the narrowing amendment to claim 22 is intended to overcome rejections based upon US 5548441 (Greenberg), a reference first cited in the Final Office Action.

Accordingly, the Examiner is asked to fairly exercise his discretion and enter the amendments herein.

Specification

A rewritten Abstract is introduced herein following the Examiner's suggestion as to proper format. Entry and approval of the rewritten Abstract is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 25, 28, and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for lack of written description. The rejection is mooted with respect to claims 25 and 28, which are canceled.

The rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to claim 30, which states "wherein each of the pair of lateral deflection elements is a concave mirror." Paragraph [0008] of the specification states "[t]he mirrors can be a plane mirror or also a concave mirror having refractive (focal) power." Thus, it is respectfully asked that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 22-23, 25-26, 28-29, and 31-33 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Greenberg. This rejection is respectfully overcome as it would apply to amended claim 22 and claim 31 for the following reasons.

Greenberg fails to disclose deflection elements, i.e. elements 48, 49, and 50 in Fig. 3, as being part of a single composite deflection element, and in fact teaches away from including these in one element. In particular, the deflection elements ("beam shift means") 48, 49, and 50 are movable in their respective radial directions along paths 55 relative to optical axis 13 for varying illumination angle. See column 12, lines 38-48. The mirror surfaces 45, 46, and 47 of the beam shift means 48, 49, and 50 can also be tilted relative to an associated incoming

light beam to vary angle of reflectance. See column 12, line 65 - column 13, line 4. A composite element as required in claim 22 does not permit the radial and tilting movements described by Greenberg. The Final Office Action states "[h]owever, taken as a group, the three elements [48, 49, 50] may be considered a single composite deflection element." It is respectfully argued that one of ordinary skill in the optical arts would not consider the three physically separate elements of Greenberg, which are movable relative to one another, to be part of a single deflection element. Reconsideration is respectfully urged.

Claim 31 depends from amended claim 22 and is patentable over Greenberg for the reasons discussed above in connection with amended claim 22.

Therefore, removal of the rejection under 35 USC 102 is respectfully sought.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenberg in view of US 6075643 (Nonoda et al.). This rejection, as it would apply to amended claim 22 (which now incorporates the limitations of claim 24), is respectfully overcome because Greenberg teaches away from a composite deflection element as argued above, and because the combination of Nonoda et al. with Greenberg does not suggest an arrangement wherein two lateral UV sources are provided together with a main illumination beam that is not limited to the UV range.

Greenberg is primarily concerned with improving resolving power and sharpness of a viewed image through the use of oblique illumination. See Greenberg at column 3, line 35 - column 4, line 3. Provision of oblique UV sources, as opposed to visible light sources, would not be helpful toward this goal. Moreover, Nonoda et al. describes UV sources (mercury lamps 6 and 9) for axial illumination, not oblique illumination. Only applicant suggests oblique UV illumination in combination with main illumination that may be visible light.

Accordingly, claim 22 is not obvious over Greenberg in view of Nonoda et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly sought.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenberg in view of US 3186300 (Littmann). This rejection, as it would apply to amended claim 22, is overcome based on the limitations in amended claim 22 discussed above. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenberg in view of US 4311358 (Gibbons et al.). This rejection, as it would apply to amended claim 22, is overcome based on the limitations in amended claim 22 discussed above. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

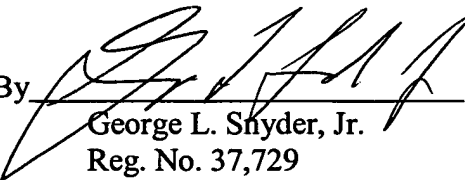
Conclusion

Entry of the present amendments will place the present application in a condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is kindly sought. If the Examiner has any questions, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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